



MINORITY AIDS INITIATIVE

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

Communities of color have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS epidemic.

- Of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, 70% occur among minorities.
- In 2001, minorities represented more than 60% of persons living with AIDS.
- Nearly 65% of new AIDS cases reported in women during 2001 occurred among African Americans.
- Recent studies in six U.S. cities have documented high levels of HIV infection among men of color who have sex with men.
- African-American women accounted for nearly 64 percent of HIV cases reported among women in 2001.

To be successful, HIV prevention must address the diverse communities affected by the HIV epidemic. Prevention efforts must focus on groups at greatest risk, particularly young African Americans and Hispanics. Programs must be relevant to the lives of the target population – appropriate to age, culture, community standards, and language. They must be designed with input from the affected community and delivered by organizations and people with credibility in that community.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

Since 1999, CDC has received funding through the Minority AIDS Initiative to enhance efforts to prevent the acquisition or transmission of HIV infections in communities of color. With the Minority AIDS Initiative, CDC supports community-based programs to prevent HIV, capacity-building programs to assist community-based organizations (CBOs), targeted education efforts to raise awareness of the importance of HIV testing, and conducts supplemental surveillance to define the magnitude of the epidemic in minority communities and research to develop and refine prevention programs.

Example of program in action: A CDC grantee in California developed a guidebook entitled, *Healing Begins Here: A Pastor's Guidebook for HIV/AIDS Ministry Through the Church*. The objectives of the Pastor's Guidebook are: to provide clergy with accurate clinical and statistical information on HIV/AIDS and its effect on the lives of African Americans, to assist clergy in developing sermons on issues and concerns related to HIV/AIDS, to help clergy incorporate HIV/AIDS education and prevention strategies into their existing ministries, to assist clergy in raising awareness and initiating dialogue about the disease throughout their congregations and the African-American community, and to help clergy mobilize their congregations to work toward stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS within the African-American community.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC continues to build the capacity of local communities to prevent HIV. In particular, CDC will continue to provide financial and technical assistance to programs addressing populations at high risk for HIV infection. Continued efforts are needed to refine prevention approaches, disseminate effective strategies to communities in need, and expand effective programs to additional sites. CDC is evaluating its Minority AIDS Initiative programs to assess the outcomes of this effort and guide future HIV prevention efforts.

For more information on this and other CDC programs, visit, www.cdc.gov/programs.

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